

Thank you for your comment, Megan Birney.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50352.

Comment Date: July 14, 2008 12:46:44PM
Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarS50352

First Name: Megan
Middle Initial:
Last Name: Birney
Organization: Community Environmental Council
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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record
Attachment: CEC Comments on PEIS Scoping.doc

Comment Submitted:

[See Attachment.](#)



Community Environmental Council

July 14, 2008

Solar Energy Development Programmatic EIS Scoping
Argonne National Laboratory EVS/900
9700 S. Cass Ave.
Argonne, IL 60439

RE: Community Environmental Council comments on PEIS Scoping

To Whom It May Concern:

The Community Environmental Council is a non-profit environmental organization founded in 1970 in the wake of the infamous oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, CA. Since 2005, our mission has been exclusively focused on energy, climate change and transportation policy. Our flagship campaign is to wean our region (which includes Santa Barbara County, San Luis Obispo County and Ventura County) off fossil fuels by 2033 or sooner (more information is available at www.fossilfreeby33.org). Renewable energy will play a starring role not only in this effort, but also in efforts across the nation to break our dependence on fossil fuels and establish low-carbon energy sources. Solar in particular shows great promise for meeting our peak load demand.

As such, we encourage the DOE and the BLM to consider a range of biological, social, and economic impacts of solar energy development on BLM land. Including, but not limited to:

- Identify lands that are suitable for solar energy development.
- Identify lands that are not suitable for solar energy development.
- Identify lands that facilitate access to transmission and distribution lines.
- Establish best management practices for biological site surveys: required type and minimum length of studies should be determined.
- Establish best management practices to protect cultural resources.
- Identify economic impacts including short-term and long-term job creation.
- Discuss alternatives to solar energy development: including solar on private land as well as fossil fuel alternatives that would need to be built if solar is not.
- Identify possible mitigation measures.

The end goal should be to establish best practices for siting, review, and mitigation that will lead to projects that bring online the greatest amount of solar energy, with the lowest environmental and economic costs.

Sincerely,

Tam Hunt, Energy Director

Megan Birney, Senior Associate

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